

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action of December 29, 2004, Claims 1-11, 20-27, 34, 35 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,864,542 issued to Gupta et al. ("Gupta et al."); Claims 41-63 are allowed; and Claims 12-19, 28-33 and 36-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-11, 20-27, 34, 35 and 64 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 12, which was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (i.e., Claim 1), but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (which there are none in this case).

Accordingly, Claim 1 as amended is believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Gupta et al. for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 2-11 are also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Gupta et al. since they depend from Claim 1, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 1.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 28, which was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (i.e., Claim 20), but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (which there are none in this case).

Accordingly, Claim 20 as amended is believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Gupta et al. for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 22-27, 34 and 35 are also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Gupta et al. since they depend from Claim 20, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 1.

Claim 64 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 12.

Accordingly, Claim 64 is believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Gupta et al. for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 1.

2. Objections to Claims 12-19, 28-33 and 36-40

Claim 12 has been cancelled and its limitations added to Claim 1; and Claim 13 has been amended to depend from Claim 1 instead of Claim 12.

Accordingly, Claims 13-19 are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Gupta et al. since they depend from Claim 1, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 1.

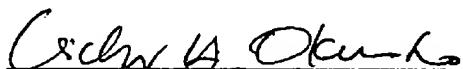
Claim 28 has been cancelled and its limitations added to Claim 20; and Claims 29-33 have been amended to depend from Claim 20 instead of Claim 28.

Accordingly, Claims 29-33 as well as Claims 36-40 are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Gupta et al. since they depend from Claim 20, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 20.

Claims 1-11, 13-27, and 29-64 are pending in the application. Claims 12 and 28 have been cancelled. Claims 41-63 have been allowed. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for the reasons stated herein, and notice of their allowance earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 29, 2005


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